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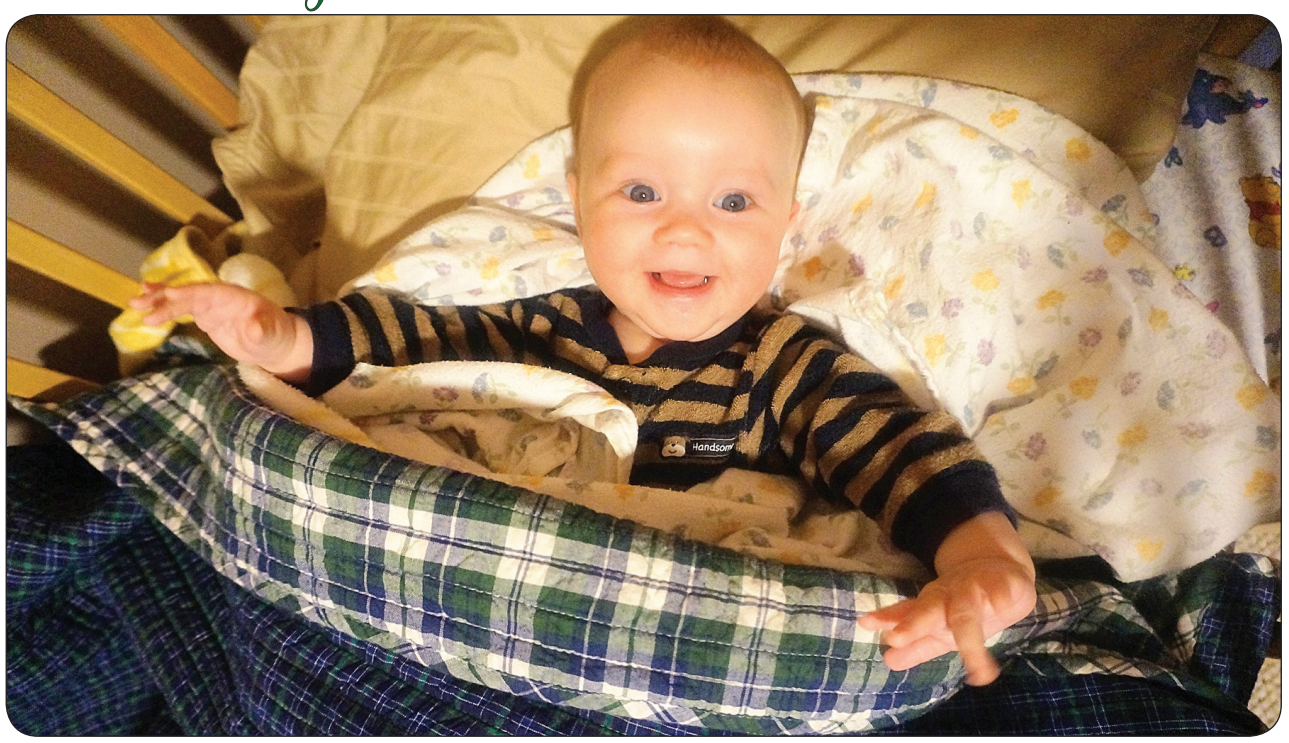

Christmas at the Cottage

by Janet Trull

"Our hearts grow tender with childhood memories and love of kindred, and we are better throughout the year for having, in spirit, become a child again at Christmas-time."
– Laura Ingalls Wilder

Once upon a dark December, a little girl had a great idea. She wanted to spend Christmas at the cottage. The cottage was a simple structure that served them well in the summer but, her parents reminded her, there would be no running water. It would be very cold. And, they added in an attempt to put the idea to rest, the wolves would be prowling about in the winter woods.

But the little girl would not be deterred. She had read *Little House on the Prairie* and she longed to challenge herself with the brave struggles of pioneer times. She told her brothers stories about following deer tracks and chopping wood until they joined her crusade. Finally, the parents relented. I hope you aren't disappointed, they told their headstrong daughter. Pioneer days were not all fun and games.

The cottage road hadn't been plowed or sanded, so Father parked at the top of the laneway. They unloaded the station wagon onto the toboggan. The gear, the groceries, the gifts, they all slid down the snowy hill to the back door.

Shhhh, the little girl said before they went inside. The silence was huge. She felt its strength. She sensed its importance. She would remember it forever and seek it as often as she could.

"We who live in quiet places have the opportunity to become acquainted with ourselves, to think our own thoughts and live our own lives in a way that is not possible for those keeping up with the crowd."
– Laura Ingalls Wilder

It took some effort to chop kindling and start the fire in the big fieldstone fireplace. They stayed bundled in their coats and hats until the first layer of frost melted away. The old oil-burning stove kicked in, with terrifying rumbles and bangs. Mother warmed the kitchen by opening the oven door and turning it on high. She put electric blankets on the beds to thaw the mattresses. The little girl felt it prudent not to mention that pioneers did not have electric blankets.

In the morning, the children lingered under the covers until nature called and, one by one, they took turns running across the icy floor, jumping into their boots and paying a call up the hill. The toilet seat in the outhouse, covered with ice crystals, was torture on a warm bum. No lingering to read the *Farmer's Almanac* in December.

The little girl loved the feeling of self-sufficiency as she accompanied Father down to the lake to chop a hole in the ice and fetch some water. She was just like Laura Ingalls helping Pa. Back inside, she read one *Readers Digest* magazine after another. July and August back issues from summers past. Curled up in the old brocade armchair, she read *Laughter is the Best Medicine* and improved her vocabulary with *Word Power*.

The days went by without a schedule. Crazy Eights and cookie baking and fire poking. When cabin fever threatened, they got their coats on and headed outside. Remembering the advice of a wise local resident, they were careful not to venture out too far onto the lake. How do you know when the ice is thick enough to walk on, they asked. Oh, he said, I just wait until the tourists stop falling through.

The little girl built a fort under the canoe and her brothers built one up against the boathouse. They decorated a little spruce tree outside the front window with lights and ribbons and peanut butter pine cones for the birds. On Christmas Eve, the grandparents showed up with gifts and pumpkin pies.

Christmas morning was cold and sunny. The children woke to find a pair of skis for each of them. Wooden skis that strapped onto their boots. They went over to the snow-covered golf course, climbed halfway up to the ninth tee and skied down. They did it again and again, until they were cold and exhausted and wet right through to the skin. When they came inside, the kitchen windows were steamy and they each were given a job. Setting the table, mashing the turnips, testing the stuffing. Dinner was happy chaos. By the time Grandmother served the pie (with real whipped cream) they could barely keep their eyes open.

There is no better sleep to be had than in a little Haliburton cottage on a winter's night with the fire burning low and the shadows reflecting on the open eaves. What a great design! The bedroom walls did not go to the ceiling, so the children could listen to the comforting tones of their parents and grandparents talking in low voices in the next room. They felt safe and cozy and loved.

May children everywhere this Christmas enjoy the simple pleasures of playing outdoors, reading a good story and preparing a meal in a crowded kitchen. May they know the comfort of a soft pillow and a warm blanket and loved ones gathered under one roof.

"The real things haven't changed. It is still best to be honest and truthful; to make the most of what we have; to be happy with simple pleasures; and have courage when things go wrong."
– Laura Ingalls Wilder

Health Unit Holiday Hours

The Health Unit office will be closed for the holiday season on: December 24, 25, 28, 31 and January 1.

Best wishes for a happy and healthy holiday season from the staff of the Haliburton, Kawartha, Pine Ridge District Health Unit.

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The Echo Haliburton County
The Times

Christmas Songs Redux

Living Large

Humour by Steve Galea

OK, I'm going to come right out and say it. I'm bored of Christmas carols.

It's not that they are bad songs. It's more like we hear the same ones over and over every year.

Where are the new Christmas carol song writers? When will we hear the next *Silent Night* or at least a hip-hop version of it?

With that in mind, here are 10 Christmas carol titles for would-be song writers to work on.

1. *I saw Daddy punching Santa Claus*. This song would allow the kids to know that Dad isn't a door mat and had real problems with Santa kissing Mommy.
2. *Rudolph the Red-nosed Reindeer (Ought to get that thing checked out)*: Not only is this a great Christmas song but it would also serve to remind people that you should see a dermatologist whenever you notice an unnatural blemish.
3. *Violent Night*: This is a carol that celebrates Black Friday.
4. Oh Christmas Spree: Finally, a song that recognizes our spending habits during the festive season. "Oh Christmas spree, oh Christmas spree, Mastercard it loves thee…"
5. *What Child is this? At 4 am....:* This song would remind us that our children like nothing better than to get up "a little early" on Christmas day.
6. *I'm Screaming, It's a White Christmas!:* This is a carol for all those who really didn't want to shovel the driveway on Dec. 25.
7. *The Little Summer Oy:* Lyrics could go something like, "Summer came and went parrumpapumpum. It seemed so very short parrumpapumpum. Now we're in winter mode parrumpapumpum…"
8. *Oh Christmas Free:* This is a carol we could sing just after Boxing Day when we first start thinking we're finally past Christmas.
9. *God Rest Ye Hairy Gentlemen (Wax moustaches today):* I think it's about time the hipsters had their own Christmas carol too.
10. *The First Oh Well...:* I see this carol being written about someone who was less than thrilled with their Christmas gift. As in "Oh well. A teapot."

Read County Life online at haliburtonecho.ca or mindentimes.ca

Wendy, Mary, Mike, Leona, Brad and Shani

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Japanese brothers share love of hockey

By Darren Lum

Like any Canadian teens playing hockey, the Watanabe twin brothers of Yamanashi, Japan love the game.

Motoki and Masaki have been in Haliburton since August, playing for the Greater Metro Junior Hockey League Haliburton Wolves hoping to one day play in the U.S. for one of the National Collegiate Athletic Association schools.

The brothers may have a limited grasp of English so far, but shared what they could with the paper about Christmas and New Year's in Japan where the dominant religion is Shinto and why they came to Canada to play hockey.

In Japan, there's not much more than fireworks, a street party and family dinner with turkey for Christmas, Masaki said. Christianity is not widely practiced in Japan and Christmas is not a national holiday in Japan like it is here. Shops though will have decorations like you'd see in North America.

This is Masaki's third Christmas in Canada, as he has spent the last three years playing competitive hockey. Last year he was in Tottenham, playing for the GMHL Steam.

His brother Motoki has never been to Canada before and has appreciated the fans' boisterous support in his rookie season. The brothers said Japanese fans only show their appreciation in applause.

Both love to eat and are looking forward to the treats and the main courses served during Christmas.

New Year's is a bigger holiday and is called *Shogatsu*, which includes a visit to a Shinto temple in the morning and visits with family and friends. A special dinner for Shogatsu features *Osechi*, which includes an assortment of seafood such as sardines, lobster and fish cakes, including egg, bitter orange in special boxes called *juba-ko*. Everything in the multi-tiered box has significance and is symbolic, relating to future fortune, health and prosperity.

The Haliburton Wolves forward Masaki Watanabe and rookie goalie Motoki Watanabe are enjoying their stay in the Highlands and will be here for the Christmas and New Years holidays. The twin brothers come from the Yamanashi Prefacture of Japan where Christmas is not as big of a celebration as New Years, otherwise known as Shogatsu in Japan./DARREN LUM Staff

With Mount Fuji – the country's tallest peak, measured close to 4,000 metres high – within view of their hometown, the two are used to the outdoors and snow. Masaki misses making "snowhouses" in his hometown. The Yamanashi Prefecture, the jurisdiction they live in, is close to 130 kilometres west of Tokyo and has a population of close to 800,000 people.

Hockey isn't usually identified with Japan, but for the boys it just runs in the family.

Their father played hockey for his high school team the Saitama Sakae Beavers close to 40 years ago. He continues to coach individual players now. After their father stopped playing, their older brother also played for the Beavers. Neither has come to Canada.

The boys still remembered playing hockey with mini-sticks (the same used here in many living rooms by children across the country), as they watched the winter Olympics in 1998 on television when it was hosted by Nagano, Japan.

Masaki loves playing forward because he can hit other players and score. Motoki, who has impressed in his GMHL rookie season with a quick glove and natural abilities in net, started playing goal at nine because there weren't any goalies where he comes from.

Canada was an obvious destination for the boys because they said it's the "best hockey country."

Their parents own and run a hotel in Yamanashi and they also have two older brothers and an older sister.

The Haliburton Wolves billet co-ordinator and trainer Jenn Little (who also works at the *Echo*) will be giving the brothers a Canadian Christmas, as she will include them in trimming a tree, enjoying such Christmas fare as eggnog and gingerbread, and tourtière – a meat pie of Quebec.

On Christmas morning they will have a big breakfast and she will have them over when her children open their gifts while listening to carols.

Then Boxing Day Little will take them to her parents, Mike and Linda Wood for a large Christmas turkey dinner with all the Christmas sides.

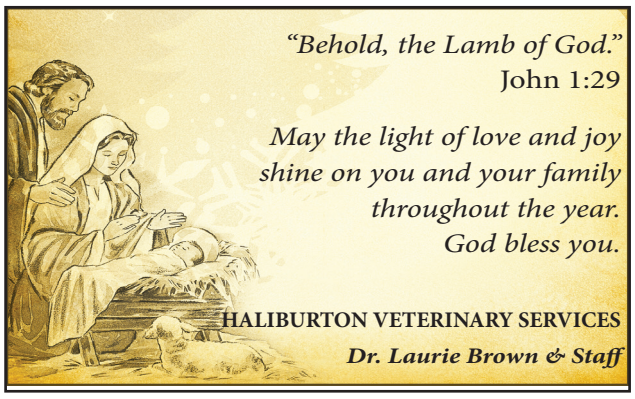
"Family togetherness is what is most important at this time of year and I want these boys to feel that they are part of the family," she said.

During the holidays she hopes to also have them participate in activities such as skating, skiing or hiking, depending on the weather.

As far as New Year's celebrations, Little hopes to incorporate Japanese tradition and/or food. She hopes they can help educate her in the finer details of Japanese food.

Little is happy to bring holiday cheer to the boys during the upcoming break and is working to make them feel a part of the community.

"These boys are a long way from home and it is important to me that they feel as though they are as much a part of our community as possible. I want the experience of living in Haliburton to be something that they will always remember. It's not all about the hockey, it's about living and learning for all of us," she said.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Dr. Laurie Brown & Staff

Baskets make Christmas merrier for Minden families

By Chad Ingram

"I'm overwhelmed each year," says Ron Reid.

Reid, who is the co-ordinator of the annual Minden Christmas basket program, is talking about the generosity of the community.

Overseen by the food bank, Reid took over co-ordination of the program in 1997.

"The original premise was to make sure every child had a toy and every family had a Christmas dinner," Reid says.

Over the years, that has grown to include toys, a Christmas dinner with all the traditional fixings and about a week's worth of groceries.

"There's been so much generosity from the food bank," Reid said.

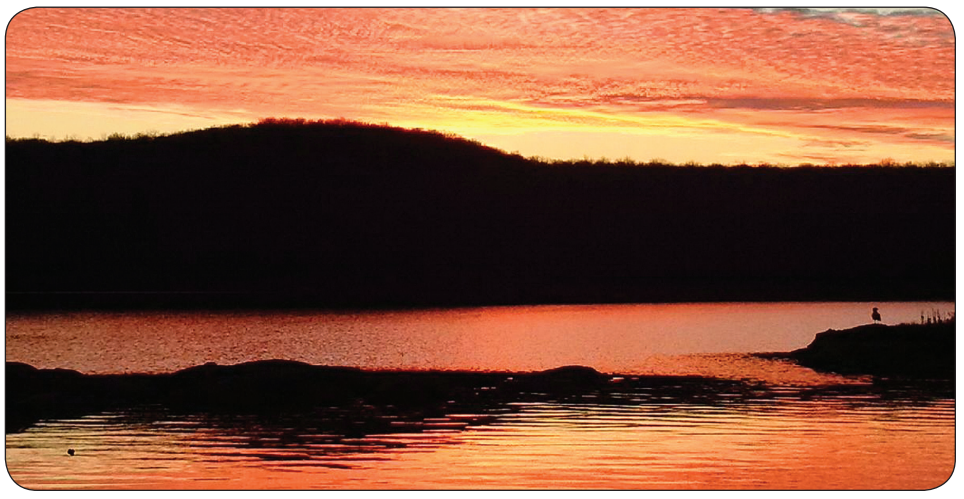
When he first started, the program was run by a group of five to 10 volunteers.

These days some 60 volunteers come out to the Minden Hills Community Centre for two days of assembling the baskets, as well as a day of pick up.

The program serves about 170 families in the Minden and Kinmount area each year.

This year, set up will take place at the community centre on Dec. 16 and 17, which pick up for families taking place Dec. 18.

Anyone who wishes to volunteer can simply show up at the community from 9 a.m. on any one of these days.



Loon Lake in November. Photo taken by Doug Harper

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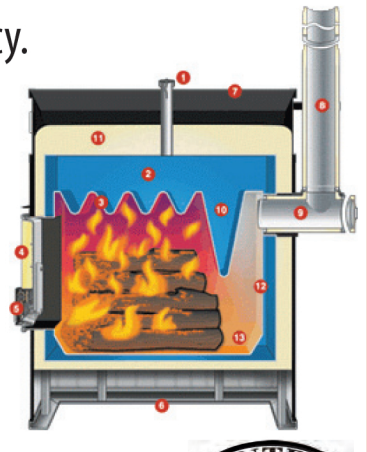

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Decades-long Christmas tradition started in Minden

By Jenn Watt

Christmas cards are a lost art for most, but for a pair of childhood neighbours, it's a 62-year-old tradition.

Arthur Clarke and David Harding have been sending the same card back and forth since they were 13. Now both 75, the former Toronto neighbours have used the annual practice to keep track of family events and milestones.

"It was one of those old fashioned cards where they folded it twice – folded it in half and folded it again, so there was lots of blank space inside," says Clarke, who now lives in Bracebridge.

Clarke recalls that back in 1953, his mother bought him a box of cards that read: "A Bonnie Good Luck Christmas. I never make a practice of giving things away, but to a friend as fine as you here's luck on Christmas day." The card asks the receiver to send it back: "So, I'm sending you this good luck coin providing that you promise me to give it back next year." There was a gold seal that looks like a coin inside.

Harding had recently moved from Toronto to Minden after his parents bought the Rockcliffe Hotel.

"Dad worked for Imperial Oil in Toronto and then he went up to Minden and bought the Rockcliffe Hotel and from there he opened up the bakery in town and then for years we owned the Pioneer Grill," Harding says.

Of all the other children Clarke sent the card to, only Harding sent it back. Clarke returned the favour on odd years, Harding on even ones. Each year they noted the date, current location and family information.

"It's really history in the making; it's so unusual," says Harding, who now lives in the small town of Sparta, Ont., near Lake Erie.

Harding grew up in Minden, attending school in the hamlet and high school in Haliburton until he got a job with the bank and started his career as a manager with Canada Trust. That job took him all over Ontario and his movements have been tracked in the Christmas card along the way.

He has fond memories of Minden and keeps a place near Irondale, where he visits with his brother Rick Harding. (Some may recall Rick Harding jumped from Minden's Bobcaygeon Road bridge this summer for the 60th consecutive year. He now lives in Lindsay.)

"I enjoyed my childhood so much in Minden – swimming in the Gull River, diving for golf balls, going to Pike's Peak on a Saturday morning, you know, the lookout – we called that Pike's Peak," he says.

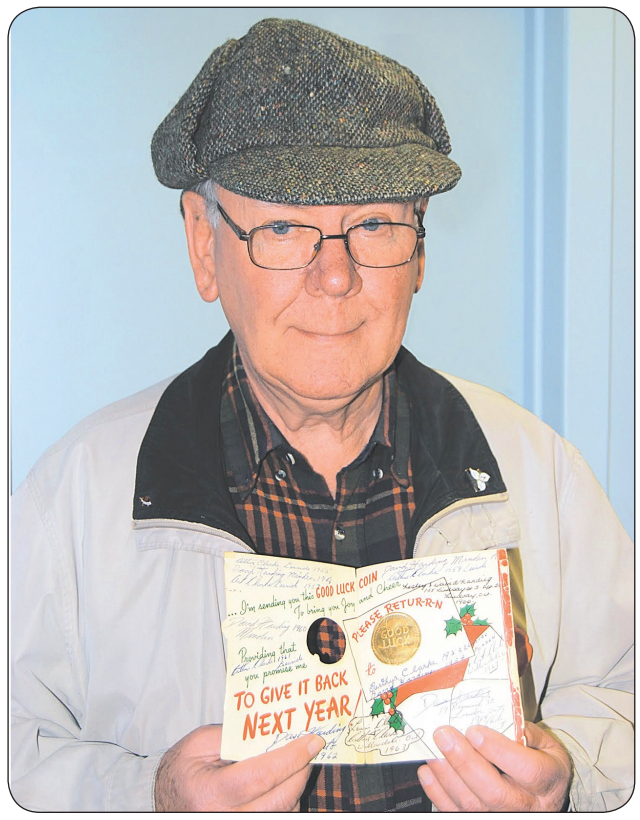
"We used to have one afternoon just before school got out that all the school kids would leave and walk from the old schoolhouse at the north end of Minden down to Pike's Peak and have a luncheon and frolic in the grass. It was a marvelous, beautiful childhood."

The men both have adult children now and the hope is that the kids will eventually take over the tradition.

Asked if the "bonnie good luck" card has brought the men good fortune, both say they think so.

"My life has always been lucky," says Harding. "My biggest concern in the morning is what I'm going to put on my corn flakes."

Clarke is bit more circumspect: "We're still both here."



David Harding grew up in Minden and has spent his life moving from place to place. While he never stayed anywhere for too long, one thing stayed the same. He faithfully sent a Christmas card back and forth with a childhood friend Arthur Clarke. The pair has exchanged the card for 62 years running. Photo by Andrew Hibbert courtesy of The Lake Erie Beacon

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for St. Margaret's are Sunday at 11:15 am

Seasons Greetings
& Best Wishes
in the
New Year
from the
staff and
families of
MISCIO CONSTRUCTION

A Message of Thanks
At The Holiday Season
2016
Thank you for your continued trust and support serving Dysart. Wishing you and yours a happy, healthy and prosperous New Year
Murray Fearrey
Reeve
Municipality of Dysart et al

There were many deals, discounts and shoppers at the annual Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary Christmas Open House on Dec. 6. Held at the Haliburton hospital, the event included pictures with Santa, a Christmas bake sale, discounts on gift shop merchandise, refreshments and more. The event is a fundraiser for the auxiliary. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

Santa supports the hospital

Haliburton Hospital Auxiliary president Tracey Lear, right, reads the name of the winning ticket holder for the wheelbarrow of wine fundraiser at the organization's annual Christmas Open House held on Dec. 6 at the Haliburton hospital gift shop. This year Kim Blair was the lucky winner of the wheelbarrow and wine, which is such a popular fundraiser nine other auxiliary's in the region are doing it as well. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

Ninety-one-year-old Helen Barkley tells Santa Claus she was very good this year.

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Christmas Season 2015
Solemnity of Christmas
Christmas Eve
Haliburton – Thursday, December 24th – 6:00 pm
Bancroft – Thursday, December 24th – 7:30 pm
Christmas Day
Bancroft – Friday, December 25th – 9:00 am
Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
Haliburton – Saturday, December 26th – 4:30 pm
Bancroft – Sunday, December 27th – 9:00 am
Solemnity of Mary, The Mother of God
New Year's Eve
Thursday, December 31st
Haliburton – 4:30 pm
Bancroft – 4:30 pm
Solemnity of the Epiphany of the Lord
Haliburton – Saturday, January 2nd – 4:30 pm
Bancroft – Sunday, January 3rd – 9:00 am
A Warm Welcome Awaits!
St. Anthony of Padua Mission
27 Victoria Street
Haliburton
Our Lady of Mercy Church
196 Bridge Street West
Bancroft

Sing a song of Christmas

The sounds of Christmas rang clearly when the many performers entertained a packed audience at the Carl Dixon fifth annual Christmas Variety Show on Thursday, Dec. 3 at McKecks Tap and Grill in Haliburton. The fundraising musical event raised $880 for the Woodlands Wildlife Sanctuary and $880 for the Haliburton Food Bank, which also received boxes of non-perishables./ DARREN LUM Staff

Local musician Carl Dixon sings to a packed audience.

The Poinsettia

By Belinda Gallagher

Pink and cream. Photo by Elizabeth Schliecher

Redder than red

Nowadays it seems that event decorations fill the store shelves every day of the year. The pumpkins and ghosts that displaced Back to School kits are nudged aside by red-nosed reindeer and chunky white snowmen. As hard as it is to keep track, one sure sign of this season's arrival is poinsettia displays in many of our local outlets.

Originally, the plant was a gangly, 10-foot tall shrub growing happily in Central America particularly the Taxco del Alarcon area of southern Mexico. The Aztecs used the plant, called *cuetlaxochitl*, for many things including fever reduction and fabric or cosmetic dye.

In 1828, during his time as the first U.S. ambassador to Mexico, Joel Roberts Poinsett first "discovered" the poinsettia, botanically *Euphorbia pulcherrima* (meaning most beautiful euphorbia). As a botanist of great ability, he was attracted to the bright red bracts on the shrub and in 1828 sent cuttings back to his plantation in South Carolina for growing and sharing with friends.

For many years the plants were grown as landscape plants – much too large for indoor use. However, by 1929 a compact form was released and was welcomed by the newly emerging greenhouse potted plant industry. Interestingly, in those early days, field-grown plants were potted up and the stems were folded, accordion style, to make the plants a presentable size. Other holiday greens were then stuck into the pots to hide the folded stems.

The move from shipping field grown poinsettias to cuttings in the 1960s triggered a new era of production. Greenhouse space, empty of its annuals, now had a new use and the plant breeding programs began in earnest.

The poinsettia is in the botanical family Euphorbia that contains more than 2,000 different species. The family is quite diverse and is found on every continent but Antarctica. One notable trait in the family is the sap found in the plants. This trait had a huge economical impact on the Industrial Revolution in the form of rubber from a cousin of the poinsettia. In fact, in 2007 the rubber tree still accounted for about one-third of the world's consumption of tires, according to *Flowering Plant Families of the World.*

The bright petals of poinsettias are actually bracts or modified leaves which only look like flowers. The actual flowers are in tiny green or yellow clusters in the centre of the bracts. Poinsettias are available in many colours – red, maroon, cream, lemon, white and various splotchy versions. On a recent visit to Country Rose to find a Christmas tree, I spotted a peachy-pink form that would make a lovely hostess gift.

Even though it is a succulent plant from a desert-like climate, the plant ideally needs daytime temperatures of 16C to 21C. Higher temperatures will shorten the plant's life, as will cold drafts. Check the soil daily and water when soil is dry. Allow the water to drain into a saucer and discard the excess. Six hours of bright indirect light is all the plant will need to thrive.

If you want to keep your plant past the holiday season, prune it back, fertilize once a month and if possible, place it outdoors in a partly shaded location for the summer. It is a bit of a trick to get the poinsettia to "bloom" again, requiring specific amounts of dark and light in the fall so I leave that to the experts. It is much more fun to find a new one each year when I see them in the local holiday displays.

Peachy pink

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Convictions in Ryan Kennedy murder case
Jane Siberry to perform in Minden
The Echo Haliburton County
The Times Minden Ontario

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Happy New Years
from the staff at
Harper Powersports

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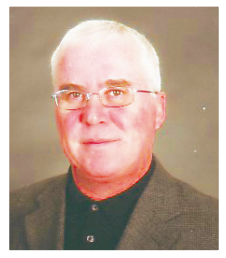

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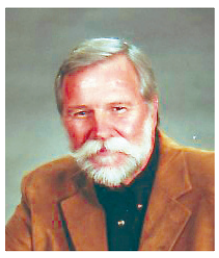

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DRAG LAKE ACREAGE $378,000

60 acres with 554 ft of beautiful shoreline. Mature hardwood bush w/walking trails to lookout. Gorgeous sunsets N/W. Private. Site cleared for building with awesome view.

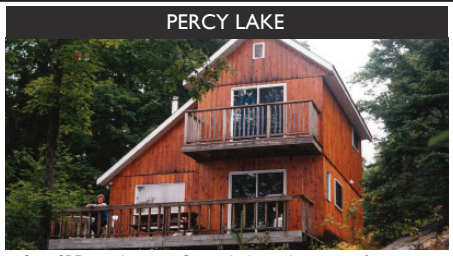
$378,000

MISKWABI LAKE

Spacious family cottage. Finished lower level w/3pc, recroom, walkout, spare rooms. Treed privacy, big lake view. Garage. Awesome 2 lake chain.

$357,000

PERCY LAKE



Cozy 2BR yr rnd cottage. Sunny deck, south exposure & gorgeous views. Bunkie. Well treed & private.

$328,000

LOON LAKE

Level lot, sun all day. Sand shoreline. Spacious 4 season 3BR, 4pc cottage. Spacious. Screen porch. Close to Haliburton.

$269,900

ISLAND COTTAGING - REDSTONE LAKE

2BR with so much warmth & character. Very well maintained, large deck, upgrades, fantastic shoreline & super island community.

$247,500

PINE AVE - HALIBURTON

Newly renovated, great neighbourhood. Nice curb appeal. 3 bedrm, large screen porch. All on one level, landscaped, private back yard.

$214,900

WILBERFORCE, BURLEIGH RD.

Neat & tidy 2BR home in forested country location. Close to lakes & village. Level lot, gardens, huge 40x70 garage, great for a contractor.

$187,000

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$154,000

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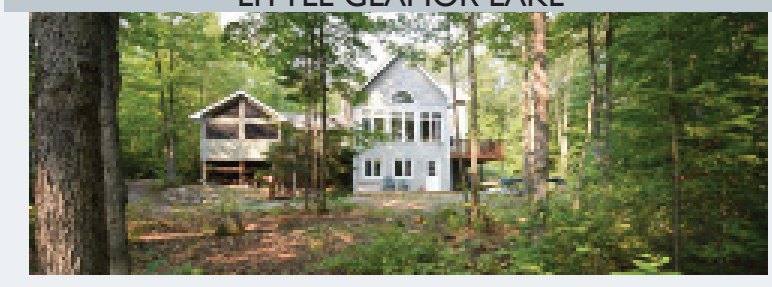
Spacious open concept cottage or home. Unique man-made coral fireplace. High quality custom kitchen. Cozy lower level family room with walkout. Dbl det garage. Big lake view.

$797,000

LITTLE GLAMOR LAKE



Spacious turn-key 4 season property. Peaceful & private, 216 ft frontage. S/W exposure. Over 3000sf finished, double garage, quality finishings & features. Must see!

$599,900

Lorraine McNeill, left, and Ann Mills roll up their sleeves and press out cookies before adding green and red gumdrops to the tops.

Volunteer Lorraine McNeill places a tray of freshly made cookies into the oven at SIRCH Central on Dec. 3.

Only five simple ingredients were used to make the shortbread cookies.

Visions of shortbread

Things got a little messy when volunteers got to work baking 100 dozen cookies in support of the SIRCH Community Kitchen Program. Volunteer Jennifer Button mixes the batter. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

Volunteer Bill Bunn is in the festive spirit as he places a dozen cookies into a ziploc bag to be distributed to those who pre-ordered the cookies. Apart from baking, volunteers also put together gift bags for the moms who use SIRCH programs and services, which contained soap, hand cream and more.

Volunteer Lorraine McNeill places freshly baked cookies onto a table at SIRCH Central on Dec. 3. A group of 10 volunteers made 100 dozen cookies of various shapes, to raise money for the Community Kitchen Program. The cookies were being sold for $5 per dozen.

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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

from all of us

Paul Banelopoulos
Brittany Boudreau
Laura Chowzun
Debbie Comer
Andrea Hillo
Angelica Ingram
Chad Ingram
Pat Lewis
Jennifer Little
Darren Lum
Jennifer Mceathron
Laura Smith
Jenn Watt
David Zilstra

THE ECHO HALIBURTON COUNTY
The Times MINDEN ONTARIO
CountyLife

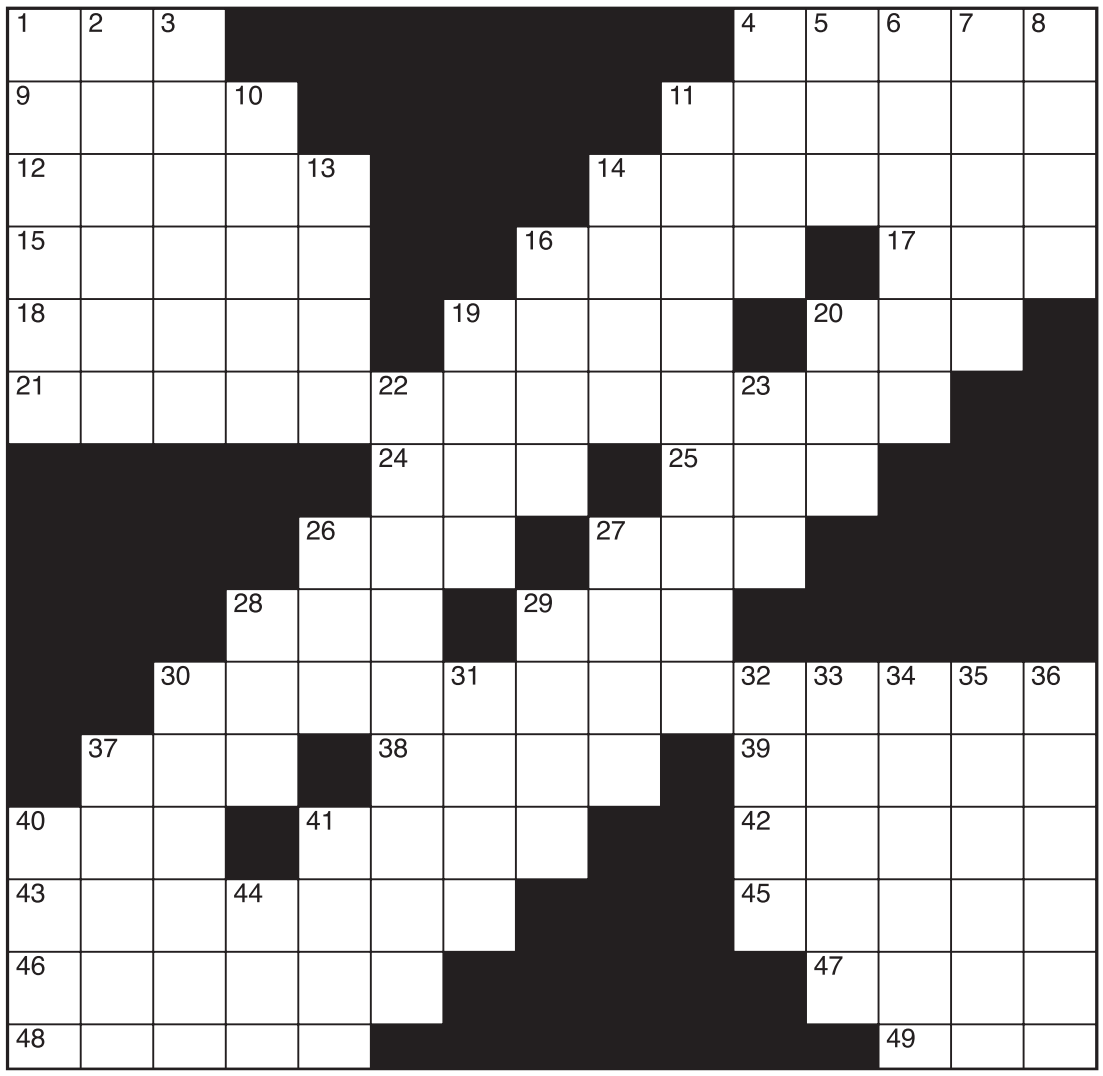
CLUES ACROSS

1. Angry
4. Mr. Claus
9. Minerals
11. Gluten-free diet disease
12. Nickel-cadmium accumulator
14. Day or rest & worship
15. King of Magadha (273-232)
16. Satisfy an appetite
17. Stage signal
18. Durable aromatic wood
19. Something used to lure
20. Actress Basinger
21. A rare and exceptional person
24. Quick head movement
25. Yeddo
26. Mythological bird
27. Root mean square (abbr.)
28. Chart of the Earth's surface
29. Fish eggs
30. Recto
37. The cry made by sheep
38. Pitcher
39. Supports climbing plants
40. Arbitrager
41. Winglike structures
42. Singer Ross
43. Belonging to Barney & Betty
45. "Promises" author Wendi
46. Swindles
47. In widespread existence
48. Those opposed to
49. Used to be U___

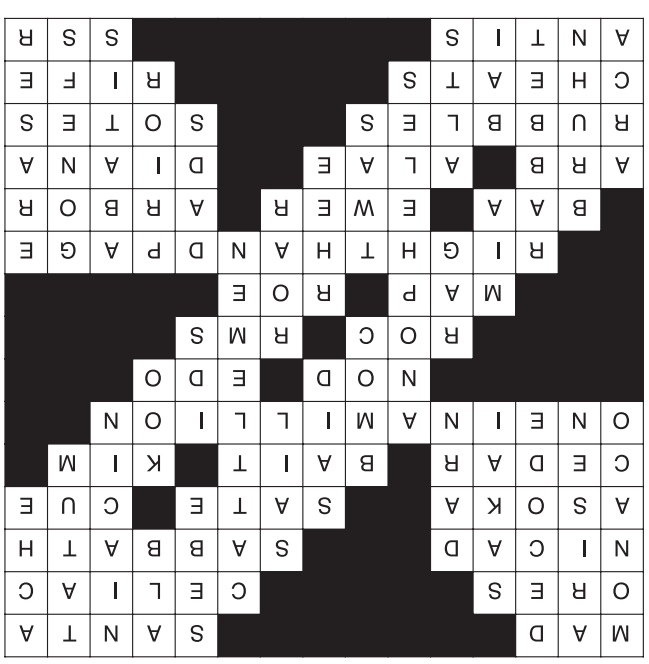
CLUES DOWN

1. Grace's Principality
2. No longer seated
3. Translate into ordinary language
4. Point that is one point E of SE
5. Linen vestment worn by priests
6. A B vitamin
7. Ryan O'Neal's daughter
8. Dull steady pain
10. Seaport on Osaka Bay
11. Cowpunchers
13. Mend a sock
14. Ship's canvas
16. Aformentioned
19. Big man on campus
20. English actress Stark
22. Malaria mosquitoes
23. Many subconsciousses
26. A scrap of cloth
27. Cry loudly
28. Actress Farrow
29. S. Korean Pres. Syngman (1948-65)
30. Rectangular grooved joint
31. "___ the night before Christmas"
32. Male parents
33. Earlier in time
34. Rampart of felled trees
35. Scoundrel (Yiddish)
36. Pencilmark remover
37. Danish ballet dancer Erik
40. Blood clams genus
41. Subsititutes (abbr.)
44. Spoken in the Dali region of Yunnan

CROSSWORD PUZZLE



SOLUTIONS



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Children get in Christmas spirit
Six-year-old Aurora Wesley focuses on the green icing she is frosting her cookie with at Abbey Gardens on Dec. 5 during their Winter Festival. The event included wagon rides, cookie decorating and a visit with Santa Claus in a yurt. The festival was supported by Foodland Ontario. ANGELICA INGRAM Staff

Crafts were just one of the many things keeping kids bustling at Abbey Gardens. The event included wagon rides, cookie decorating and a visit with Santa Claus in a yurt. The festival was supported by Foodland Ontario.

Christmas Hours
Haliburton Family Medical Centre
7217 Gelert Rd. (beside Haliburton Hospital)
December 24 - 8:30 a.m. - 12 p.m.
December 25 - CLOSED
December 28 - CLOSED
December 31 - 8:30a.m. - 12 p.m.
January 1 - CLOSED
Doctors and Staff would like to wish you a very happy and safe holiday season

Wishes Warm & Bright
It's been a privilege and a pleasure serving you for the past 20 years.
Merry Christmas & Happy New Year!
The staff and families of CHURKO ELECTRIC
www.churkoelectric.com

Jack Roxborough-Buffett, left, and his brother Charlie found out they were on Santa's good list this year.

Enjoy the Holidays with family and friends!
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Merry Christmas & Happy New Year
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Wishing you a holiday wrapped in happiness. All the best to you and yours, Merry Christmas and Many Thanks for your support..
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North Country Realty Inc., Brokerage
Don't Keep Me a Secret!

How we get ready for Christmas!

Stories and drawings by students at Stuart Baker Elementary School

Getting ready for Christmas

- Wrap presents to put under the tree
- Put up the Christmas tree
- Put up the lights on the roof
- Put up the ornaments on the tree
- Make Christmas cookies with Mom
- Put our stockings up on the couch
- Put the wreath on the door
- Send a letter to Santa

Jake

How We Get Ready for Christmas

- Put up lights on our house
- Put up a wreath on the door
- Set up a snowman near the deck
- Put up our stockings on the couch
- Put up the ornaments on the tree
- Put the Christmas tree up
- Make cookies for Santa
- Buy milk for Santa
- Build our Christmas tree from the box
- Put my special Birthday decoration on the tree

Mason

How to Get Ready For Christmas

- Wrapping presents to put under the Christmas tree
- Putting ornaments on the tree
- Putting decorations like lights in our rooms
- Put our stocking on our fireplace
- Put candles out to put on our table for Christmas dinner
- Get our Christmas tree from the store
- Make a list for Santa
- Buy presents from the store

Carlee

How We Get Ready for Christmas

- Buy gifts to give to people
- Put up the Christmas tree in the living room
- Read the Bible in the evenings
- Put up our stockings near the cat's room
- Pray to God for our happiness
- Put candles up on our table
- Put an angel at the top of the Christmas Tree
- We put goalie decorations on our tree
- Wrap our gifts and put under the tree
- Write a list to send to Santa

Chase

Getting ready for Christmas

- Decorate the railing with lights
- Get a Christmas Tree from the forest
- Decorate the tree with lights
- Put a star on the top of the tree
- Decorate my house with lights
- Send Christmas cards to my friends
- Decorate the tree with ornaments
- Write a Christmas list what I want
- Buy cookies from the store for Santa
- Put the stockings on the couch

Matthew

Getting Ready for Christmas

- Put the Christmas tree up
- Put the stockings on the couch
- Put the Christmas lights up on the roof
- Put the presents under the tree
- Go to the store to get cookies for Santa

Mackenzie

Getting Ready for Christmas

- Start advent calendar on December 1
- Put up Christmas in our home
- Decorate Christmas tree with my family
- Buy presents for our family
- Put our stocking up for Santa to come
- Buy cookies and milk before Santa comes
- Get the ornaments from the box in the basement
- Put our lights on the tree outside
- Put our wreath on the door
- Wrap presents to put under the tree

Lara

Getting Ready for Christmas

- Put up a Christmas tree
- Hang up a star in the kitchen
- Put up our stockings on the railing
- Send Christmas cards to my friends
- Put lights on my house
- Put the penguin on the sewing machine
- Put up candles on shelves
- Decorate my Christmas tree with ornaments
- Put up pictures of Santa on shelves
- Put the nutcracker on the shelf

Abby

With Our Thanks at the Holidays

From all the Staff at

WEST GUILFORD Shopping Centre

Bill & Edna
Chad & Steph
Chase & Ellie
Cori & Piper
Pat Morrison
Rhonda Shaw
Chris Chumbley
Angie Hayward
Jen Coates
Frosty
Lahna McClory

and the Rest of the Gang
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&
Happy New Year
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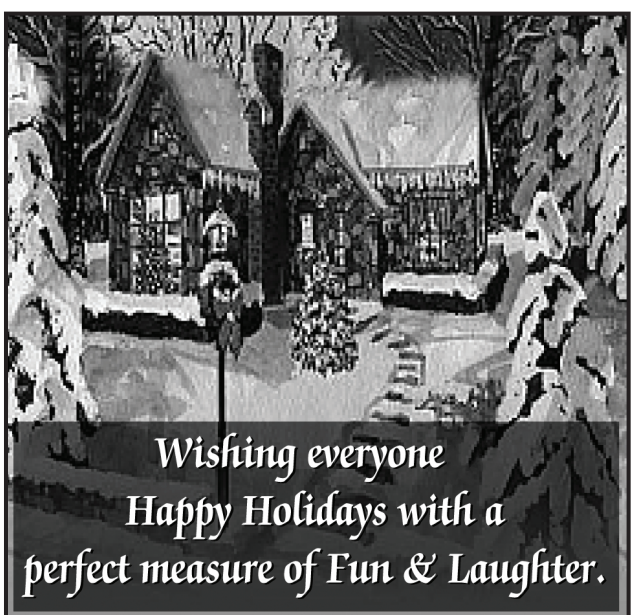

Wishing everyone Happy Holidays with a perfect measure of Fun & Laughter.
Looking forward to meeting and serving you in the future,
Carol Jamieson LL.B
1 Invergordon Ave., Minden 705-286-2611

SEASON'S GREETINGS
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705.457.1473

WEDGEWOOD
(Minden)
14445 Highway 35
705.489.2320

OPEN ALL YEAR

How We Get Ready For Christmas

- Put up the Christmas tree in the living room
- Put the Christmas balls on the tree
- Put Christmas pictures on the wall
- Put my chocolate calendar up on the wall
- Read my bible in bed and pray to God

Trevin

Getting Ready For Christmas

- Getting the tree from grandmas
- Decorating the tree with balls
- Getting stockings from the closet
- Buying presents from Walmart
- Buying turkey for dinner
- Buying ice cream for dessert
- Buying chocolate chip cookies for Santa
- Buying white milk for Santa
- Buying a wreath to put on the door
- Hang lights outside on the balcony

Noah

How We Get Ready For Christmas

- Put decorations on the tv
- Put decorations on the window
- Putting our Christmas tree up
- Put the lights on our tree
- Put our stockings on the fireplace
- Give Santa my letter
- Get my house decorated with lights
- Make cookies for Santa with my mom

Leland

Getting ready for Christmas

- Put lights around the house
- Set up the tree
- Put up the decorations on the tree
- Put up the star on the top of tree
- Get cookies for Santa from the store

Liam

How We Get Ready For Christmas

- Put my Christmas tree up
- Put the star on the top of the Christmas tree
- Get the ornaments box from the basement
- Put my lights on my deck
- Put little present pictures on my window
- Make cookies for Santa

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- Put the stocking on the couch
- Decorate my roof with lights
- Send a Christmas card to Santa

Rilynn

Getting Ready For Christmas

- Put up the Christmas tree
- Put up the outside lights
- Hang the stockings up by the fireplace
- Put the wreath on our door
- Hanging the decorations from our roof
- Put the lights on the tree
- Making a snowman on our lawn

- Putting the candles on the table
- Buying milk and cookies for Santa

Josh

How we get ready for Christmas

- Put the Christmas tree together
- Put the lights on the Christmas tree
- Put the decorations on the Christmas tree
- Buy milk and cookies for Santa
- Put presents under the Christmas Tree

Dan

Getting ready for Christmas

- Get your Christmas tree from a store
- Decorate your Christmas tree with decorations
- Decorate you house
- Hang up your stocking
- Hang up some lights
- Buy some toys and clothes for your family
- Buy chocolate milk and cookies
- Make a Christmas list

Brian

Items We Put On Our Christmas Tree

- A star
- Balls
- Lights
- Ornaments
- Toys
- Garland
- Angels
- Ribbon
- Mistletoe
- Wreaths

Noah

Christmas Treats

- Cookies
- Cake
- Cupcakes
- Candy cane
- Chocolate
- Chocolate chip muffin
- Hot chocolate
- Mints
- Sweets
- Rocky Road slabs

Noah

Christmas Clothing

- Scarf
- Hat
- Coat
- Mitts
- Gloves
- Jacket
- Sweater
- Boots

Thank You!
All of us from Heads Up Hairstylists sincerely thank our valuable customers for their tremendous support and loyalty throughout the year. Best wishes for a Happy Holiday Season.
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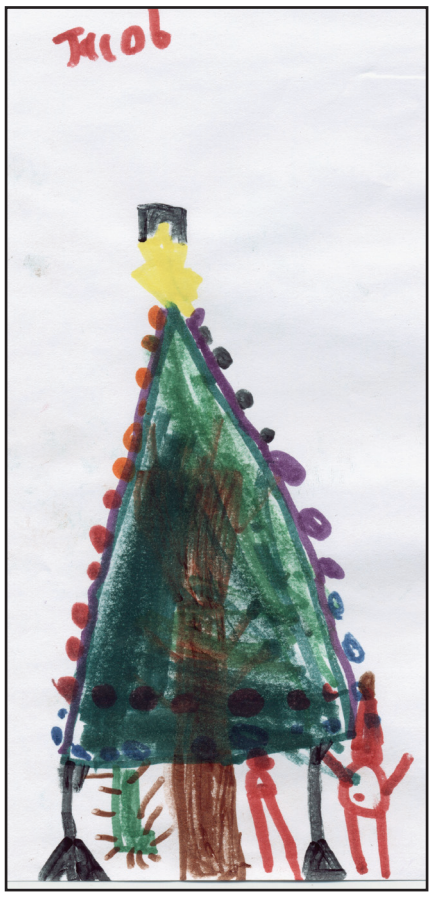

- Red Shirt
- Santa belt

Noah

Treats that Kids give to Santa

- Cookies
- Hot chocolate
- Milk
- White Chocolate
- Candy Can
- Chocolate chip cookies
- Oatmeal raisin cookies
- Gingerbread cookies
- Stollen
- Coffee

Abby

One snowy night Rudolph got lost in the woods and Santa couldn't find him. Santa looked everywhere in the woods but he was lost. Then Santa went in his sleigh to the city and looked for Rudolph there. He found Rudolph in Foodland because he was buying a new light bulb for his nose so on Christmas Eve he could fly the sleigh for Santa. Santa took Rudolph home in the sleigh so he would not be in the city any more. When Rudolph got home he ate lots of grass to be ready for Christmas.

Liam

One night at the North Pole Rudolph was pulling the sleigh to Santa's house. Rudolph wasn't looking where he was going on the way to Santa's house and the front of the sleigh got stuck on a rock. Rudolph got the rope from the shed. He put the rope on the back of the sleigh so he could pull the sleigh off the rock. Rudolph was not strong enough to pull the sleigh himself so he got all the other reindeer to come and pull. Vixen and Prancer were very strong and used their hooves to pull the rope and get the sleigh unstuck. Now Rudolph can go to Santa's house to load the sleigh with presents.

Dan

we love the holidays too!
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DEC. 26.....8 AM – 5 PM
DEC. 27-30.....7 AM – 9 PM
DEC 31.....7 AM - 5 PM
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Cher Père Noël

Letters to Santa from Mlle Allore's 4A 4/5 French Classes

.

Cher Père Noël, Comment ca va? Et a mère? Est-ce qu'il brumeux chez vous? Je m'appelle Riley. J'ai 9 ans. L'année derniere, tu as donné à moi un grand jouet merci beaucoup. Mais s'il vous plaît cette anné je voulais un journal intime. Je jove gentime avec ma soeur.

Merci beaucoup père noël et joyeux noël bonne année!

Riley Collins

Cher Papa Noël,, comment ca va? Est-ce qu'il brumeaux chez vous? Je mapelle Damian jai neuf ans. Lannee derniere tu as donne a moi les jouet merci beaucoup. Mais, sil vous plait cette année Je voulais des jeu de PS2.

De Damian

Cher Père Noël, comment çava? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fair froid chez vous? Je m'appelle Austin et j'ai 10 ans. S'il vous plaît cette anné je voulais un bâton.

De Austin

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Je m'apple Abby. Jai 10 ans. L'année dernière, tu as donné à moi un chat, merci beaucoup. S'il te plaît, cette année je voulais un cheval. J'étais sage cette année. Merci beaucoup Papa Noël et Joyeux Noël et bonne Année!!! Abby Dykstra

Cher Père Noël, comment ca va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il niege chez vous? Je mappelle Aleyah. Jai neuf ans. L'anne dernière tu as donné à moi un teléphone, merci beaucoup. S'il vous plaît, cette année. Je voulais un Iphone. J'étais sage. Merci beaucoup père noel et Joyeux Noël et bonne année.

De Aleyah

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Je m'appelle Sofie. J'ai neuf ans. Lannee dernière tu as donné à moi un tapis de gymnastique. Merci beaucoup. S'il te plait, cette annee je voulais une poupee de Maplelea. Merci beaucoup père Noël et Joyewx Noël at bonne Annee!

De Sofie

Cher Père Noël, comment ca va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Je m'appell Charlotte. J'ai neuf ans. L'année derniere, Tu as donné à moi une planche à neige. Merci beaucoup. S'ill te plaît, cette année Je voulais un lit. Merci beacoup père Noël et Joyeux Noël at bonne annee!

Charlotte

Cher Père Noël, comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce quil fait froid chez vous? Je m'appelle Lindsey J'ai dix ans. Lannée derniere tu as donne à moi une canne. Cette année Je voulais une renne. J'èspere que tu aime les biscuits et du lait. Merci beaucoup père Noël et Joyeux Noël et bonnie annie.

Signed Lindsey

Cher Père Noël, comment cava et ta femme? Est ce qu'il fait chez vous? Mon nom est Jamie. J'ai neuf ans l'annee derniere ta as donne a moi chocolete merci beaucoup mais s'il vous plaît cette annee Je voulais Ipad. Merci baucoup pere noël et Joyeux noël et bonne année!

Jamie

Cher Père Noël, Comment cava? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il enneige chez vous? Je m'appelle Quinn et j'ai 9 ans. L'annee tu as donne à moi une couverture merci beaucoup. Mais, s'il vous plait cette annee je voulais un lutin. Merci Père Noël.

Quinn

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il blanche chez vous? Je m'appelle Madison. J'ai dix ans. L'année dernière, tu as donné à moi chocolat, merci beaucoup. S'il te plaît, cette année je voulais des choses de gymnastique. Merci beaucoup père noël. Je joue gentiment avec mon petit frère. Merci beaucoup père noël et joyeux et bonne année!

Madison

Cher Père, comment ça va? Et ta

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Cher Père Noël

femme? Est-ce qu'il neige chez vous? Je m'appelle Abby R. J'ai 10 ans! Merci beaucoup pere noël et Joyeux Noel.
Abby R.

Cher Père Noël, comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il amusant chez vous? Je m'appelle Maria, J'ai dix ans. L'année. Je voulais un neuvelle rampe de techdeck et aussi des techdecks merci boucoup père noël et joyeux noël et bonne année.
De Maria O'Malley

Cher Père Noël, Commont ca va? Et ta temmez? Je m'appelle TS. J'ai neuf ans. L'annee derniere, tu as donne a moi une canne de Noel merci beucoup. Sil te plait cette annee je voulais un meccanoid G15Ks. Merci beaucoup papa noel et joyeux noël et bonne année!
Je t'aime, Taylor

Cher Père Noël, Comment caya? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il niege chez vous? Je m'appelle Melanie Walter. Jai neuf ans. L'annee derniere, tu as donné a moi des chausseures merci beaucoup. S'il te plait, cette annee je voulais un iphone. Merci beaucoup Pere Noel.
Melanie

Cher Papa Noël, coment cava et ta femme est ce qu'il neige chez vous je mappel Nathan Jai neuf ans L'anne derniere tu as donné a moi texe téléphone merci boucoup J voulai une trottinette.

Cher Père Noël, Je name m'appelle Kiara et j'ai 8 ans. Voici mes trois idees-cadeaux preferees: 1. I want une bicyclette 2. and a un ipod 3. and I wode like un grand cadeau.
Je t'aime, Kiara

Cher Père Noël, Commet ça va? Etth femme? Est-ce qu'it enneige chez vous? Ja m'appelle Carson et j'ai neuf ans. L'annee demilere tu as donne a moi une planche a neige ci beaucoup papa noel et joyeux noel et bonne annee.

Cher Père Noël, comment çava? Est-ce qu'il neige chez vous? Je m'appelle Riley ai 9 ans ca une derniere tu as donné a moi une voiture merci beaucoup papa noel et bonne année. Riley Allore

Cher Père Noël, Comment çava? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Je m'appelle Aidan et J'ai neuf ans. L'année dernière, tu as donné ai moi un jouet de Spider Man, merci beaucoup. Mais, s'il vous plait cette année je voulais un iPod. J'èspare que tu aime les merci beaucoup Papa Noël et joyeux noël et bonne année!

Cher Papa Noël, Merci beaucoup pour les jeux de wii. Comment cava? Je m'appelle Darren et j'ai 9 ans. Merci beaucoup Papa Noël et joyeux noël et bonne année!
From Darren
Cher Père Noël, comment sava? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Jai 9 ans mon nom et Baylie Stover. Cette année je voulais une surprise! Merci beaucoup!
From Baylie

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et Mère Noël? Est-ce qu'il brumeux chez vous? Je m'appelle Cheyenne Lagace. J'ai neuf ans. L'année derniere, tu as donné à moi une boulie de gomme merci beaucoup père noël et bonne année. Mais s'il vous plait cette annee je voulais livre.
Cheyenee Lagace

Chèr Papa Noël, Comment cava? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il fait froid chez vous? Je m'appelle Makenzie. J'ai neuf ans. Merci beaucoup mais s'il vous plait cette année je voulais une chaise rougem. Merci beaucoup Papa Noël et Joyeux Noël et bonne Année.
De Makenzie.

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est-ce qu'il neigeux chez vous? Je m'appelle Austin Boylan J'ai Neuf ans. L'année dernière tu as donné à moi un bâton merci beaucoup! Je joue gentiment avec mon petit frère et je suis gentil à ma famille! Merci beaucoup Papa Noël et Joyeux Noël et bonne Année!
De Austin Boylan

Cher Père Noël, Comment ça va? Et ta femme? Est çe qu'il neige chez vous? Je m'appelle Mady. J'ai neuf ans. L'année derniere, tu as donné à moi une luge de Disney gelé luge merci beaucoup. Mais s'il vous plaît cette année je voulais hunger games et de esse fille series. Merci beupop père noël et joyeux noël et bonne année.
Macy Thompson

Christmas Stories

Stories from 3B, Mrs. Marks-O'Sullivan

Winter Time With The Snow Monster

One breezy cold day there was a meteor shower of snow. I heard with my white snowy ears...Jingle bells, Jingle bells, Jingle all the way...My eyes glanced at these moving people. It looked fun. I growled oooh la la with my ferocious teeth. I was like the happiest snow monster ever! I ran down the mountains and danced with them. Whoo hoo! I growled. This is super dooper fun. The music changed fast. I was scared. I growled really loud. I ran in circles. The terrified humans turned off the great beautiful Christmas music. In my mind it was totally blue. I didn't know what to do with no music to cheer me up. Just nothing. My mind was flooding with tears. But then it was turning into burning hot lava dun dun duuh! I screamed so loud that the humans screamed like babies. They all ran home they packed their bags and moved to Hawaii. It was safe there. A few days later the humans came back. I was still there but before they screamed like babies I apologized and gave them candy canes that were 10 feet tall! We danced for hours until midnight. Oh I almost forgot we ate our tasty candy canes. And that's how the snow monster and the humans became friends.
Logan Beers in 3B

Snow Yeti Works at Santa's Workshop

One day Yeti, which is me, wakes up and starts making toys for children. I made so much toys my box was overflowing with toys. I was so happy that I made so many toys. I think Santa will be so happy with me. The elves will be too. So on Christmas Eve Santa asked me if I wanted to help him deliver presents. I said yes and it was so much fun. From this day forward I am Santa's biggest present deliverer ever. I like being big just like old saint Nick - #Santa Claus.
Nicholas Neville in 3B

The Mouse Friend

My friend Mr. Mouse got cold outside. I wanted to help my friend. I thought about what I could do. I decided to make a sweater for him. I knit for days. It was great. My mouse friend thought it was great too. Mr. Mouse said, "There I'm warm. I will be warm when I am out side. Mr. Mouse snuggled up in the sweater. He would wear the sweater every cold day. Then they celebrated Christmas together with milk, cookies and our other friends
Gracie Gardiner in 3B

I Can't Wait for Santa

Hi! I am so happy! It is Christmas Eve! I am Owl and I am an owl. I can't wait for owl Santa this year but I want to make sure that owl santa comes.

So I put up Christmas lights that are green and red. These lights are actually cameras that watch owl Santa only. I get out white milk and gingerbread cookies that look like owl Santa Claus and his reindeer with red, green, gold and silver icing. For the reindeer I got dark orange carrots and I got them smile jingle bells that sing jingle bells. I go to my cozy and fuzzy nest bed. I go to my nest bed and wait for owl Santa to come down the chimney and drop down all the awesome presents with pink and purple wrapping paper. I fall fast asleep. When I wake up in the morning I looked for the awesome presents and then I went to the Christmas tree.
PRESENTS!
Happy holidays, have a great Christmas!
Thank you for reading I can't wait for Santa.
Jocelyn Thompson in 3B

Rudolph Gets Serious

I've been the front reindeer for a long time and I've noticed a big difference when I am leading the way. Well what I've noticed is that the reindeer and Santa have gained weight. That is becoming a problem for me. Last night I walked through the deep cold woods to Santa's workshop but while I was walking to Santa I was cold and I had frostbite on my toes and I couldn't believe it was real! It felt so cold. On the way to the shop I also felt so dizzy and then out of a bolt I fainted. When I woke up I continued on my way. On the way to the workshop I saw the reindeer and I mysteriously rolled my eyes at them. They rolled their eyes back at me.

Then when I finally got out of the woods I found Santa but as usual he's in the Santa lounge eating milk and cookies! I left very upset. The next day I walked back through the deep dark woods to Santa's lounge but he wasn't there. I thought he would be in the lounge but when I went outside he was chopping wood. I said "What are you doing?" He said, "I'm chopping wood for the people who don't have any money to buy any wood to live in a warm home." Then just as I was getting ready to leave I asked Santa and the reindeer, "Would you please not eat so much at Christmas." But then Santa and the reindeer had a very big grin on their faces. "Ho!Ho!Ho! Sure we'll do that!" said Santa. They listened to me and everyone went on a diet before Christmas. I was happy as I knew I would be able to pull the sled.

Chloe Hartwig in 3B

Jody the Gingerbread Girl on Christmas Eve

Oh no! I can't find a gingerbread house for Christmas Eve even though I am a gingerbread girl. But I can't stop looking because if I don't have a gingerbread house for Christmas Eve Santa Claus won't come to give me any presents and that would make me depressed for weeks! So I have to go to my friend John so he can make me a snowsuit at his house so I don't sink in the awfully deep snow. "Hi John, do you mind making me a snowsuit so I can go look for a house and so I don't sink in the very deep snow?" I asked. "Sure!" says John. So he starts sewing like a maniac! And before you know it he is done making my snowsuit! So I was off on my journey to look for a warm and cozy gingerbread house. I had to look for 10 hours and in those 10 hours I was thinking about Santa Claus forgetting me on Christmas Eve. I was scared because if Santa Claus forgot me on Christmas than I would be so sad. I was searching for a house for so long that my tiny gingerbread legs felt like they were not there. But guess what? I found my other friend Hedchodge and he helped me look for a house and we found one! I was so amazed. I finally found a house after all! Hedchodge and John helped me get ready to live in my new house and I asked them if they wanted to stay at my house for the night so we could open presents on Christmas morning together. I was so excited and happy to have my very own house once again. Now I am going to go to bed thinking about presents and making new friends here.

Maya Johnson in 3B

Thank you for reading my story! Merry Christmas!:)

The Night Before

I was shaking my skeleton bones because Halloween was over and now it is Christmas. I looked outside and it was snowing. As I went through the door to go outside I went to the north pole and I landed in a snow bank. The door was a magical door. The village I went to is named Christmas town. Since I am a mean skeleton was stealing Christmas stuff. Santa found out and wasn't happy. He was very mad and he put me on the naughty list. I said, "Oh no!" Santa then taught me the Christmas spirit. I now am on the nice list. I said, "Goodbye Santa Claus." "Ho!Ho!Ho! Merry Christmas"

Spencer Upton in 3B

Kitty's Problem

Oh no! This is terrible. I am very worried for a kitty and I am upset. I can not find any other sweet cookies for Santa Claus and I need more time to get some cookies for Santa Claus. I will not get anything if I don't get some sweet smelling cookies for Santa. I like presents and really want a present so I better meow around and find cookies. What am I going to do if I don't get some cookies for Santa Claus. This is the end for me and Christmas. I went to the store but I can't reach the cookies for Santa Claus. I went home and asked Santa for cookies for Christmas. Santa brought cookies at Christmas so I shared the cookies with him. We both had fun so now I know what to do next year if I do not have cookies. That is how I could go through with this and now I love Christmas forever.

Dinah Ogley in 3B

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Prancer Joins the Team of Reindeer

One Christmas Eve the wind was howling so loud that the trees were shaking and the fog was so thick you couldn't see a Christmas light. I can get through this storm. I am Santa's third reindeer and know that I can do this.

"Santa can I help you get through this storm?" I asked.

Santa said "NO!" I replied, "I have three years of training in the super high flying school. I can see through the thickest biggest fog storm ever." Santa kept saying NO! I was so MAD steam was coming out of my ears. I thought and thought and thought then I got the biggest idea ever. "Santa how about we have 9 awesome flying reindeer instead of 8," I asked.

"That is a great idea. YES!" yelled Santa. So the nine reindeer were ready to take flight. Thank you very much Santa.

DASH AWAY ALL!!!

Kadin Card in 3B

Olive's Christmas Fight

Hello my name is Olive. I walk on my four legs and sometimes I walk on two. I live near Santa Claus in a small village called Chris Kringle Village. One day i went to visit Santa Claus. I went to visit Santa and his friends because it's December so it is close to Christmas and they're friends of mine. So when I got there first I went to the reindeer shed and no one was there. Then I went to the toy factory no one was there. Next I went to Santa's workshop and got a big surprise. Santa Claus, Mrs. Claus, the Reindeer and the elves were fighting. I was like oh my gosh in my head because I'm a dog I can't talk. I was like that for two minutes then ran back home. I felt very sad and emo. Then I got a idea. I could try and convince them to be friends again. So I went back to see Santa and his not friends anymore to try and convince them to be friends again. First I went to see Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus at Santa's workshop. I said, "Mrs. Claus and Santa Claus why can't you be friends?"

"Because," said Santa. "We just can't be." Said Santa again. "We just aren't the same."said Mrs. Claus. "Please can you be friends again," I asked. "NO!" said both of them. Then I ran to find the reindeer. When I got to the reindeer shed I saw the reindeer were playing together. Next I went up to them and said, "Why can't you be friends with again?"

"Because Santa is eating way too much food and does not care for us. He is getting too heavy and will be hard to pull," said Rudolph.

"The elves think we're lazy and have nothing to do," said Prancer.

"So no! We are not going to be friends," all the reindeer said. I ran off to find the elves. So I got a microphone from one of the elves and called all the elves and said, "Why can't everyone be friends?"

"Because Santa is being hard on us and saying we are doing this all wrong," said one elf.

"The reindeer are teasing us because we're small and have to do a lot of work." said another elve. "No we are not going to be friends," they all said. They were loud like really loud. I can't believe that they all said no. Finally I gave up and went home. Boo Hoo Hoo! There never going to be friends again. Then it came to me. Maybe I could have a Christmas dinner. Also I can invite and help Santa, Mrs. Claus, the reindeer and elves become friends again. So I handed everyone invitations to dinner on December 23, 2015. Finally it was December 23 and I have got everything done. Now I just have to wait for them to arrive. At around 5:30 they started to arrive. Santa arrived first. Then Mrs. Claus arrived and next the reindeer came. Last the elves joined us and that's all. We all had supper but no none was talking so I said something. "Hello everyone. I am excited that all you came and I hope you can stop fighting."

"Yes," said Mrs Claus. "We should all be friends again and stop fighting."

"Yeah," said everyone. "We should care for everyone even if we're different." said Mrs. Claus.

"Group hug," said Santa. Then we had a group hug and became friends again.

Cole Hamilton in 3B

Santa Easts Too Many Cookies

I ate too many cookies. I am Santa. Ho! Ho! Ho! I am very worried because I might get stuck in a chimney. The kids won't find any presents if I am stuck in a chimney. I am going to run around the north pole so I can get in shape and stop eating cookies. That didn't work so I will go to the Olympics. Finally this worked out. After all I am skinny again. I am so happy to see me skinny again.

Dalton Fairey in 3B

Snowman at Christmas

The sun is melting me down and I am afraid that I won't see Christmas. I am made of snow as you know and do not like it warm. Next I rolled into the shade to save myself. That was not really working. So I went into a house and hid in a freezer until I heard that it was cold outside. When it was cold I went outside. It was snowing again. Yeah. I will make it for Christmas. I asked Santa if I could come with him on Christmas Eve in the sled and he said yes. I said yeah and I screamed as loud as I can.

Christmas was going to be the best yet.

Sean Johnston in 3B. Have a nice Christmas everybody.

Rudolph Has No Friends

Hi. I am Rudolph. I'm sad because all the other reindeer don't like me. I tried to play but all of the other reindeer laughed at me. The reindeer do not like me because I have a bright red nose. I asked the other reindeer if I could play hot and cold, but they yelled NO! Santa said do you want to glide my sled tonight. I thought you didn't like my read nose. Santa said ho, ho, ho. I need your red bight nose. It will help me go through the white snow. I saved the day. Now all of the other reindeer like ME! Merry Christmas to all of you.

Clair Stewart in 3 B

Elf Man

I was making a jack-in-the-box and then another elf came and twisted the jack-in-the-box. I was really sad that the elf had broken the jack-in-the-box. A nice elf came and this elf helped me and we solved the problem. We fixed the jack-in-the-box and had to make more presents. I was getting ready to do the job of making the cookies for the elves. While I was making cookies the elves tried to me a doll but me and they were not able to make a metal doll. Finally they did it. At last we had to get ready and one elf has to go with Santa. Then Santa and Andy the elf were off to hand out presents. After giving out presents all night and going around the whole world Andy elf and Santa came home. Andy and I became best friends because we were both elves and did all the same jobs.

Aaron Neave in 3B

Snowman Troubles

It was a cold, foggy Christmas Eve night on Mount Everest. (I'm a Snowman, just so you know.) I had just put up my Christmas tree, and it was missing something. There were lots of ornaments, the lights were glowing fine, hmmm... A Star! How could I forget? (Well, my head is an ice cube...) I left my house and entered the garage and grabbed a bucket of gold paint, and grabbed some sticks from outside. I nailed them together and painted them gold, and I had made a star! I was going back to the house, when I tripped, and by body rolled down the mountain! I called Santa for help, (Read the top if you

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Christmas Stories

think "Why Santa?") and he came right away! Rudolph must have been exercising! I asked him for a pair of skis and a set of mountain climbing gear, and he gave me them. (But he asked for cookies in return.) I skied down the hill, and a bump came up! I tried skiing around it, but I went over it! I was soaring through the sky, holding on for dear life! I came back down on the bottom of the mountain, grabbed my body and climbed back up with the climbing gear that Santa had lended me, I entered my lovely home, put the star on the tree, and went to bed. The next morning, I found all of the presents under the tree. I opened one: a freezer! I opened another one: an iPhone! Wow! What a great Christmas!

Will Volochkov in 3B

The Grinch

One night the Christmas presents were delivered to all of the kids and I stole all of the presents. I did this because I am a mean and nasty Grinch. I am delighted that I have all of the presents. I run to my secret smelly house and hide all of the fancy presents. I then went to the top of the hill and yelled, "I stole all of the presents!" Everyone in Whoville heard me yelling.

Everyone cries for the presents. Santa finds me. I give them back but I feel sad because I don't get any presents for Christmas. Santa gives me a present. I feel happy. This is the first present ever got.

Logan Burke in 3B

Rudolph

If my nose won't light up then Santa couldn't deliver the presents to the children. The children would be sad if Santa wouldn't deliver the presents. I will tell the elves to fix my nose so Santa can deliver the presents to the children. "I cannot fix your nose Rudolph," said the elves. I fell very sad. Who can I ask now? Maybe I can ask Santa! I galloped to Santa. "Can you fix my nose Santa? I asked. "No," said Santa. Now I am even more sad. What can I do now? I will go and ask for Mrs. Claus if she can fix my nose. "Can you fix my nose Mrs. Claus?" I said. "No," said Mrs. Claus. Once again I felt sad. So now I have to look for the people who care. I know who can help! Dasher my reindeer friend. I ran as fast as I could. "Can you please fix my nose Dasher?" I said. "Sure," said Dasher. So I felt so excited. My nose got fixed and I helped Santa at Christmas.

Dominick Hilts-Dewey in 3B

Mrs. Coneybeare's class – Grade 3

One cloudy windy afternoon. "Eaarch"! What was that I said in a worried voice. Oh! Hi Deer. I found a Deer in the forest. I discouvered the deer had a hurt leg. Because a hunter shot his leg. So ... nearby I found a old abandoned shed. I walked the Deer into the old abandoned shed. And I locked the old abandoned sheds door so the Deer didn't escape. I whipped into town and bought a thick cast for $8.00.

I ran back to the old abandoned shed. I gently put the cast on the Deer. We went to sleep cuddling each other in the old abandoned shed. But before we went to sleep we locked the old abandoned shed door. In the morning I yelled YAA, IT HEALED! So I unlocked the old abandoned shed door and let the Deer go. After the Deer was out of site, I walked home. When I got home my Dad asked why were you gone all night? And I said oh it was a long story but a Merry Christmas story for my new friend.

Miles

Achoo, achoo, achoo, sneezed Om and my sister Nevaeh. They were very sick with stuffy noses and clogged up throats. Dad and I went shopping for presents.

When we got home I wrapped all the presents except mine. When I finished I made lunch for mom and Nevaeh. I wondered what I got like every one else. Wondered what the got. It was Christmas day now and every one felt better. So every one was happy about what they got. Merry Christmas, I yelled!

Dominic Smith

Crunch, Crunch, Crunch went the snow as I was walking home with Kiki and Rickie.

We were walking up the steps to the house and we heard Cough, Cough and I thought to my self uh oh! I noticed that dad was sleeping in bed. I went to my room and changed in to my comfy clothes and said to Kiki why don't we put up the Christmas tree. She said why not, then Rickie started to bark and we both said ShShSh!

So we went down stairs and got the Christmas tree. We went up stairs and put the tree in a stand. Next. . . my favourite part came . . . decorating! We strung the lights and hung the decorations. It looked amazing! I was just about to put on star and Dad work up. I really had to hurry to place it on. I made it just in time. Dad said Wow that looks beautiful Jayde and hugged me. We said Merry Christmas and Rickie started barking again. We all laughed.

Jayde

Bang. Crash! One Christmas morning this boy fell out of bed. When he fell out of his bed he saw presents. When he saw presents he raced to the presents. He looked out the window and he saw tracks from Santa's sleigh. Merry Christmas, he yelled.

Logan

On Christmas Eve it was stormy. It was raining ice pellets. When I was in my bed I was scared and frightened at night because I heard jingling noises at night.

My nana woke me and my brother up.

Me and my sisters and brother opened presents and I got a skate board.

Lillie

"Santa Claus is coming to town". I sang along on my way home from church.

I opened the door and yelled "Hello mum". She didn't answer so I went to her room. She said "I went to the doctor, I have a cold".

I tip toed to my grandma and whispered, "Can we decorate the tree to help mom feel better?" I giggled in a whisper. She whispered "sure". So we put pretty decorations on our huge colourful tree. We were done after one hour!

After one hour, I asked, "Can we bake some cookies"? "Sure" grandma whispered. So we went to grandma's house to bake the cookies. When I got home I ran to the fridge to fetch a glass of milk for my mom. I also got the yummy cookies. I handed them to my mom saying "Merry Christmas" as she smiled and enjoyed the tree.

It was a couple of days before Christmas. I was very scared. I was shaking. I was worried about my grandpa because he had an operation on his leg. I decided to give him the cookies. We talked and laughed a lot. I was feeling proud and happy and I made him feel happy to.

Merry Christmas.

Isaac Crego

One Christmas season a girl named Emery was bored. So Emery called her best friend. She asked Jordyn if she wanted a sleep over. Jordyn said yes. Emery walked to Jordyn home. Jordyn was packed on the step waiting for Emery. Emery got there. Emery and Jordyn were walking at dark. It was windy and snowy. They were walking up a trail that led to Emery's home. The trail split up into two. There was a sign that is always there to show what way to Emery's home. The wind had switched the sign and they went the wrong way. Emery tripped on a root. She was bleeding and they needed a bandage. A tiny elf about the size of a pop bottle jumped out of a tree. She was wearing green and red polka dots. She had a bandage in her hand. The elf put the bandage on Emery. Emery was ok. The girls got home safely. They chatted the girls wondered if the elf was Santa's elf!

Emery

Highlands summer festival 2016 Live Theatre

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Old flames never die; they just need a spark to bring them back to life. Meet Bud. He's recently divorced. Molly....she's newly-widowed. Never one to pass up an opportunity, Bud emerges from the shadows at her husband's funeral to pay his respects, leading to a re-awakening of forgotten emotions. In this sparkling story, playwright Norm Foster explores the world of romance, courtship, relationships between Bud and Molly as they rekindle the flame of love.
Performances July 18-22, 27-29

Fallen Angels *By Noël Coward*

Noël Coward's 1925 comedy about two wealthy British women tempted by the return of a Frenchman who once dated both of them. This champagne-bubbly, dryly witty romp about the foibles of the British upper class also deals with such universal themes as the lure of lustful sex, marriages gone stale, the nature of commitment, and the sexual double standard. Fallen Angels is a co-production with Dragonfly Theatre Company. ***Performances August 1-5, 10-12***

The Judgment of Paris *By Tom Allen*

Written by CBC Radio Two host, symphony orchestra consultant, author and musician Tom Allen, The Judgment of Paris combines cabaret, history and storytelling with timeless music by Claude Debussy and Maurice Ravel, as well as original songs by the performers. Set during the rise of the First World War, you're invited to follow along as musical revolutionary Debussy and his one-time follower Ravel compete for the love of their proud, fickle, darling Paris. The Judgment of Paris is new and old, heroic and tragic, historical and fictional. ***Performances July 24 (2:30 matinee), July 25-26.***

Miss Caledonia *By Melody A Johnson*

The year is 1955. Desperate to escape the chicory-pulling, stall-cleaning, hay-baling drudgery of life in RR#2 Caledonia, Peggy Ann Douglas has a plan. Following in the footsteps of starlets Debbie Reynolds and Lee Meriwether, Peggy Ann will simply become a movie star – and she will start her journey to the top by winning the local pageant. Brimming with love, comedy, and a staggering work ethic of its own, Miss Caledonia is a delightful exploration of optimism and reality down on the farm. Dora and Canadian Comedy Award winner Melody A. Johnson, along with the delightful accompaniment of Alison Porter on fiddle, will have you in the palm of her hand on her quest for the tiara in Miss Caledonia.
Performances August 7 (2:30 matinee) August 8, 9.

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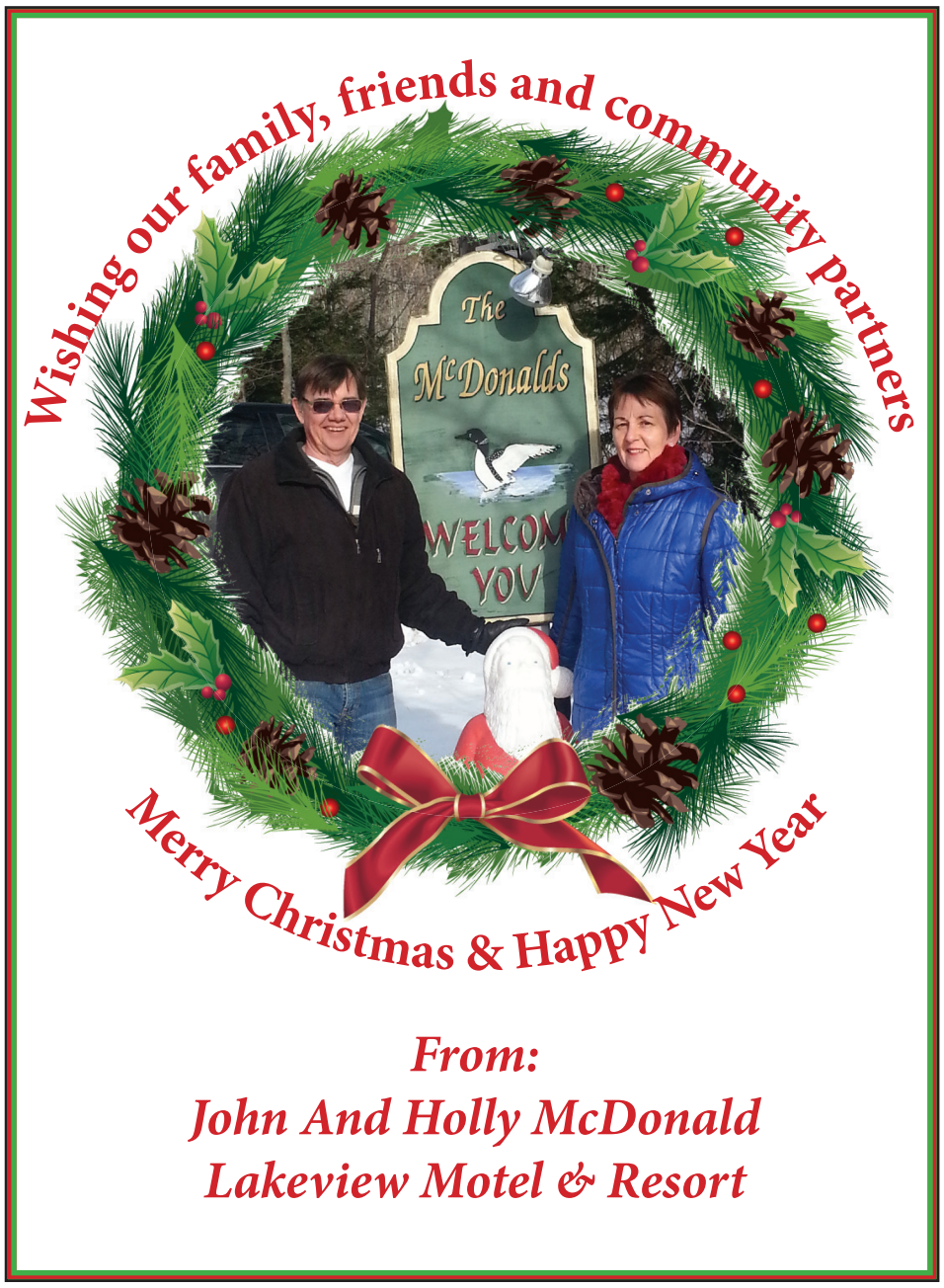

Christmas Stories

One day I was driving my four wheeler down the driveway when I suddenly saw my Grampa's lights were off. I sipped to his house. I asked what's the matter Grampa?

He said my Christmas lights went off. SO can you help me get my lights on again. I said yes. SO I plugged the generator cord and the light flickered on again and off again. Next I checked the electrical pane. After that I rapped black tape around a wire. Finally the lights turned on. Grampa yelled "Yes!!" The lights simmered and glowed the whole house up. When I drove away he had a big smile on his face and I yelled Merry Christmas!

Haiden Bird

The HUGE Snowball

HUGE GIGANTIC snowballs is what me and my little brother Justin were rolling in a snowy field on Christmas Eve. I looked at Justin and laughed. "Thats a pretty big snowball" It was bigger than me! Mine was still small though. Moments later Justin was crying and his snowball was gone. I asked him "What happened!? Justin cried that rude guy took my snowball. I told him "That's not nice! hold on let me do something" I left and walked over to my snowball. I started rolling it with all my might until it was as big as a tree. I pushed it over to Justin and said "Do you want it. He yelled "Yay thank you!" We played with the big snowball for a while. After we walked home and I yelled "Merry Christmas!"

Nicole Lee

One stormy snowy night me and my friends were biking down the road. I saw my neighbours house did not have a tree or light. So I went to Home Hardware and bought some decorations and a tree. I went to put the tree up at neighbours house and decorated the tree. We put up the lights on the house. When my neighbour woke up I gave him cookies and said Merry Christmas! He did not feel unloved any more.

So we sat down and drank hot chocolate with whip cream and a cherry on top and we ate the cookies. On Christmas morning we came and said Merry Christmas and he laughed with a snort and then we all laughed and lived happily ever after.

Mackenzie

Bump! Bump! Zoom! "Bye mom and dad" I yelled. "I hope you'll have a good time!" Mom and dad yelled back. Scweck ... SLAM! I ran downstairs and went to the play room. "Hi Adam," said my friend. We played with some lego and built a dog sled. "Why don't we go outside Adam?" exclaimed my friend. "Ok!" I blattered out. When we got outside I yelled over the barking of his dogs "I am glad that my mom and dad let me come to your house!" "Achoo!" my friend sneezed! "Why don't we go upstairs?" I asked. When we got upstairs we looked at the Christmas tree I said "Oh" in a whisper. When I left I asked my mom and dad if we could get a present for my friend because it was empty and bare under his tree. So we went to the toy store and bought him a present. We went home and wrapped it with colourful, shiny paper. We went to my friends door and set the present down. It said To: My friend From: Adam. So I hit the door bell and ran to the car and watched my friend open the door, smile and shut it. "he took the present!" I said enjoy. After a couple of days, I got a letter it said. Thank you Adam. I am very joyful and I love the remote control train! I came back and yelled. "Merry Christmas and bye!"

Adam

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Oh Cat-mess tree

Living Large

Humour by Steve Galea

I have a theory. If one of our cats were ever to disappear, I'd get some garlands, a few ornaments and string up some Christmas lights around any spruce or pine tree in the vicinity of our house. Then, I'd listen for that tree to topple in the middle of the night. Immediately, after that, I'd go get my cat.

I'm not sure why cats love to destroy Christmas trees, but if my experience is any indication, they apparently view it as a winter sport.

A formalized ritual accompanies this. First, the cat walks by the tree, seemingly uninterested, to lull you into a false sense of security. They do this until you actually begin to believe that they hold no malice towards the tree this year.

Then, when you have finally relaxed, it starts. The cat starts swatting at a few low hanging ornaments. Thirty seconds later, once all of those are scattered throughout the room, the party starts in earnest. The cat decides to determine how much weight the tree can bear.

This is followed an effort to discover the tree's breaking point. They usually discover yours at the same time – when the tree hits the ground.

Once the tree suddenly hits the ground, the cat rockets across the floor. You won't actually see the cat doing this – all you'll see is an indignant blur. Next thing you know you'll view two feline eyes staring out malevolently from under the couch. That's your cat plotting its revenge.

Revenge? For what? Partly for having its mountain lion fantasy disrupted.

But mostly for being lowered to the floor so abruptly it didn't have a chance to eat all the tinsel.

Needless to say, you don't want your cat to sample any tinsel. Although I will say, it beats the heck out of you decorating the litter box.

In any case, the cat just bides its time until the tree is set up again. Then the process begins anew.

This time, however, you have probably removed some temptation. Gone are the more seductive ornaments – the tinsel and anything that resembles a mouse or bird. These will soon be replaced by a smug cat perched in the lower branches.

And this is why people get puppies for Christmas.

and Happy New Year

From the *past to the present* we thank you for your continued support and patronage.

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